IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Patent application of:

Applicant(s):	Fred Landram et al.
Serial No:	10/688,316
Filing Date:	October 17, 2003
Title:	SELF CONFIGURING MOBILE DEVICE AND SYSTEM
Examiner:	Djenane M. Bayard
Art Unit:	2441
Docket No.	TELNP0200US

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The undersigned submits this brief for the Board's consideration of the appeal of the Examiner's decision, mailed August 5, 2008, finally rejecting claims 1-33 of the above-identified application.

The fee for filing an appeal brief is being submitted herewith. In the event an additional fee or extension of time is necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required, and further to consider this a petition for an extension of time to make the filing of this brief timely, to Deposit Account No. 18-0988 under the above-indicated docket number.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in the present appeal is Motorola, Inc.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

Neither appellant, appellant's legal representative, nor the prior assignee of the present application are aware of any appeals or interferences which will directly affect, which will be directly affected by, or which will have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application and stand finally rejected. Claims 1-33 are the subject of this appeal, and a correct copy of these claims is reproduced in the Claims Appendix.

IV. Status of Amendments

No claim amendments were filed subsequent to the issuance of the final Office Action, from which this appeal is taken.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The following is a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, which refers to the specification by page and line number in brackets, and to the drawing by reference characters.

Claim 1

1. A method of transacting business in conjunction with a sale of mobile devices, the method comprising the steps of:

shipping at least a first mobile device (36) to a first end user and at least a second mobile device (36) to a second end user different from the first end user, the first mobile device and the second mobile device having generally a same hardware and software configuration during shipping [pg. 3, lns. 29-33];

maintaining on at least one server (40, 42) coupled to a network (22) configuration data for a plurality of mobile devices [pg. 3, lns. 33-34];

upon receipt of the first mobile device and the second mobile device by the first end user and the second end user, respectively, powering up the first mobile device and the second mobile device [pg. 3, ln. 34-pg. 4, ln. 2]; and

upon being powered up, the first mobile device and the second mobile device each

a) automatically connecting to the at least one server via the network [pg. 4, lns. 2-3];

b) downloading first configuration data (160) and second configuration data (162), respectively, from the at least one server [pg. 4, lns. 4-6], said first and second configuration data defining first and second end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices, respectively, the first configuration data and the second configuration data being generally different [pg. 7, lns 24-30; pg. 9, lns. 25-35; pg. 10, lns. 30-31]; and

c) automatically configuring themselves based on the first configuration data and the second configuration data [pg. 4, lns. 6-7], wherein each mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells [pg. 6, lns. 11-13].

Claim 9

9. A method for maintaining configuration data on a server coupled to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in memory (76) on the server (40, 42) different configuration data for a plurality of different mobile devices (36) [pg. 4, lns. 10-11], wherein each mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells [pg. 6, lns. 11-13];

the server receiving, via the network (22), requests for the different configuration data from the different mobile devices, respectively [pg. 4, lns. 11-12]; and

the server providing, via the network, the different configuration data to the different mobile devices, respectively [pg. 4, lns. 12-14], said configuration data defining a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices [pg. 7, lns. 24-30; pg. 9, lns. 25-35; pg. 10, lns. 30-31].

14. A self configuring mobile device (36), comprising:

a discovery module (108) for discovering device specific information on a wireless computer network (22) [pg. 4, lns. 15-17];

a communication module (64) for transmitting data to and receiving data from the wireless computer network, wherein the communications module obtains device specific information from the discovery module to establish a communications link to at least one device (40, 42) [pg. 4, lns. 17-20];

an update module operatively coupled to the communications module for querying the at least one device to obtain a configuration update [pg. 4, lns. 20-22]; and

a configuration module for configuring the mobile device, wherein the configuration module implements the configuration update to configure the mobile device to a custom configuration that defines a user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device [pg. 4, lns. 22-24; pg. 7, lns. 24-30; pg. 9, lns. 25-35; pg. 10, lns. 30-31], wherein the mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells [pg. 6, lns. 11-13].

VI. Grounds of Objection/Rejection to Be Reviewed on Appeal

A. Claims 9-10, 14-16, 18-20, 23-29 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,529,727 to *Findikli et al.* (referred to herein as *Findikli*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,956,636 to *Lipsit* (referred to herein as *Lipsit*).

B. Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Findikli* in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,133,695 to *Beyda* (referred to herein as *Beyda*) in further view of *Lipsit*.

C. Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Findikli* in view of *Beyda* and *Lipsit* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,628,934 to *Rosenberg et al.* (referred to herein as *Rosenberg*).

D. Claims 11-13 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Findikli* in view of *Lipsit* in further view of *Rosenberg*.

VII. Argument

The rejections advanced by the Examiner are improper and should be reversed for at least the following reasons.

Mobile devices, such as hand-held data terminals, generally are designed and manufactured using standardized hardware platforms. Hardware may vary, for example, between different device models, but the hardware generally is consistent within a particular model. Therefore, each end user of a particular model of mobile device receives a unit whose hardware is substantially the same as units received by other end users. Unfortunately, each end user does not operate its business in substantially the

same manner as other end users. Therefore, the mobile devices must be tailored to the needs of each end user.

Presently, mobile devices are tailored to the needs of each end user through the use of different or customized application software that is configured to the specific needs of the end user. This requires that each device be loaded with the application software and subsequently configured before the mobile device can be used by the end user. Loading and configuring application software can involve a substantial effort and usually requires a service technician.

After the application software is downloaded to each mobile device, the mobile device must be configured to communicate on the end user's network. Additionally, each mobile device must be tailored to the end user's specific needs. This includes setting up device functionality, such as who may use the device, where it may be used, which applications may be accessed by a particular user, or any other requirement imposed by the end user. Depending on the number of mobile devices involved, one or more service technicians typically are required to assist in configuring the mobile devices for the particular end user.

Referring to Fig. 1 (reproduced below), a cellular communication system 20 is shown in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention. The cellular communication system 20 includes a network 22 having a system backbone 24. Connected to the system backbone 24 is a first router 26. Several wireless routers 28, which can be located remotely or locally relative to the first router 26, are connected to the first router 26 through an internet and/or intranet connection 30. The connection of the first router 26 to the wireless routers 28 via the internet/intranet 30 provides a

mechanism through which a communications link can be established to the backbone 24 anywhere internet access is available.

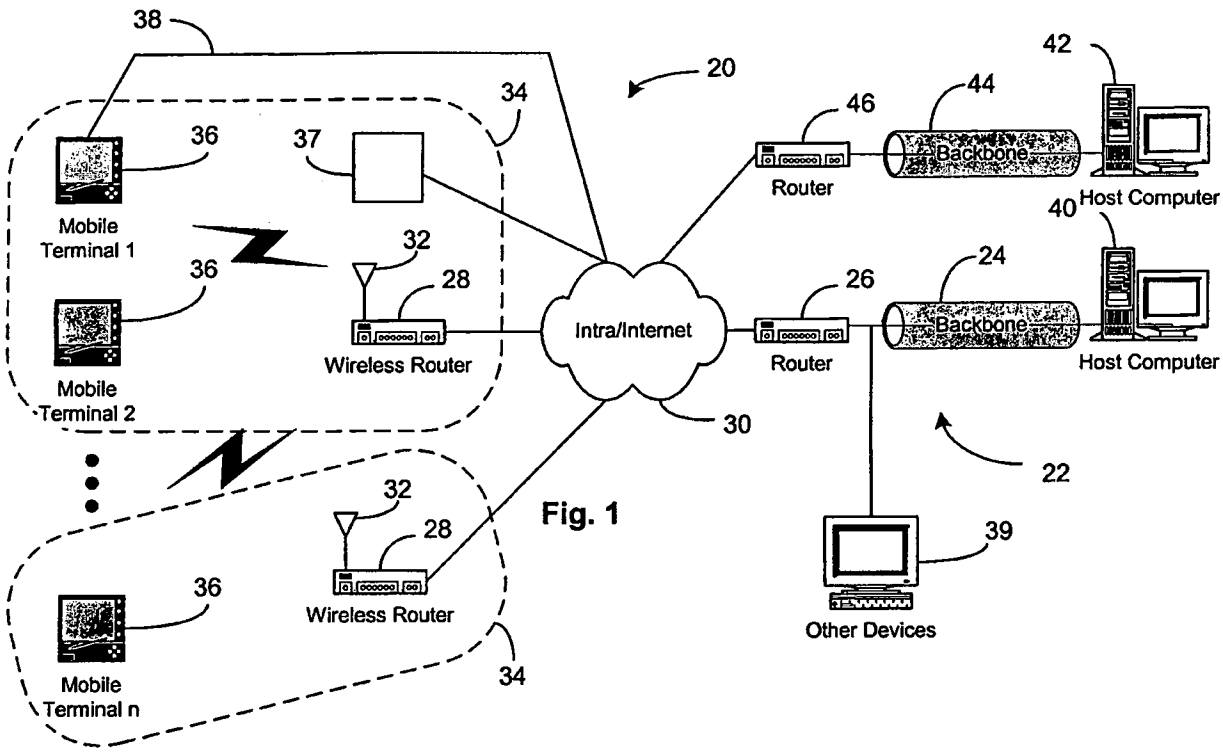

Fig. 1

Each wireless router 28 is capable of wirelessly communicating with other devices in the system 20 via an antenna 32. A geographic cell 34 associated with each wireless router 28 defines a region of coverage in which successful wireless communication may occur. The cellular communication system 20 also includes one or more mobile terminals 36. Each mobile terminal 36 communicates with devices on the system backbone 24 via a selected wireless router 28 and/or with other mobile terminals 36.

In the exemplary embodiment, a server computer 40 (also referred to as a server or host computer 40) is responsible for supporting the network activities of the mobile terminals 36 within the system 20. As part of such function, the server 40 is responsible

for maintaining device identification codes, device personalities, current versions of operating software, diagnostics and registration information for each of the mobile terminals 36.

A device personality refers to the configuration or profile of a given mobile terminal. The personality determines, for example, the applications loaded on the mobile terminal, the application configuration, the access granted to the operating system, and the functionality of the mobile terminal 36. Personalities may be dependent on the user, the location, the device or any other criteria as may be necessary. For example, a user dependant personality may enable/disable access to specific applications and/or information based on who is currently logged into the mobile terminal.

The mobile terminal 36 in accordance with the invention can be completely automated to configure itself to the end user's system, without the need of a technician. For example, an end user may purchase one hundred mobile terminals 36 from a mobile terminal manufacturer, who implements in the mobile terminals the techniques disclosed herein. The terminals 36 arrive at the at end user's facility and are delivered to the proper personnel. At this point, the mobile terminals are still in a generic state. That is, no configuration settings have been altered from the factory default settings.

An employee of the end user, who may or may not have technical training, simply removes each mobile terminal 36 from its packaging and turns it on (via an on/off switch). From this point forward, the mobile terminal takes control and undergoes a configuration and setup procedure. In particular, the mobile device automatically couples to the server, provides identification information to the server, downloads

configuration data from the server, and proceeds to configure itself to a custom configuration utilized by the end user. A few moments later the mobile terminal is configured for the end user's particular system and ready for use. The entire process is effectively transparent to the employee who just turned on the terminal.

A. Rejection of Claims 9-10, 14-16, 18-20, 23-29 and 33 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 9-10, 14-16, 18-20, 23-29 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Findikli* in view of *Lipsit*.

1. Claims 9, 10 and 33

a. Claim 9

Claim 9 sets forth a method for maintaining configuration data on a server coupled to a network, the method including, *inter alia*, ***the server providing***, via the network, the different configuration data ***to the different mobile devices***, respectively, *the configuration data defining a* ***user specified operational characteristic*** *of each of the plurality of mobile devices.* The Examiner's comments in support of the rejection are as follows.[1]

[1] See page 3, section 4A of the final Office Action dated August 5, 2008

a. As per claim 9, Findikli et al teaches maintaining configuration data on a server coupled to a network, the method comprising the steps of: storing in memory on the server different configuration data for a plurality of different mobile devices (See col. 4, lines 11-18), wherein each mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells (See col. 3, lines 33-35); the server receiving, via the network, requests for the different configuration data from the different mobile devices respectively (See col. 2, lines 1-17) ; and the server providing, via the network, the different configuration data to the different mobile devices, respectively (See col. 6, lines 1-40). However, Findikli et al fails to teach said configuration data defining a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices.

Lipsit teaches wherein configuration data defining a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices (See col. 4, lines 50-65, col. 8, lines 40-63).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Lipsit in the claimed invention of Findikli et al in order to provide automatic activation of a wireless device in a subscription activation system (See page 1, lines 57-59)

Accordingly, the Examiner admits that *Findikli* fails to teach configuration data defining a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices, but contends such feature is disclosed by *Lipsit*. For at least the reasons provided below, the proposed combination of *Findikli* and *Lipsit* does not render the claimed invention obvious.

i. Lipsit is Not Understood to Teach Providing Configuration Data to the Mobile Device

The system of *Lipsit* pertains to wireless devices that are ***preprogrammed***, and require ***no further configuration for activation***. More specifically, *Lipsit* teaches the following.

> Each wireless device 30 is ***fully preprogrammed*** with, in the case of a cellular phone, all the NAM parameters or, in the case of other wireless communication devices, their functional equivalent, so that, when the wireless device is sent to the recipient by the wireless device supplier 32, ***no further programming of the wireless device 30 is required***. Col. 3, lns. 51-56, emphasis added.

If the wireless device according to *Lipsit* is fully programmed at the time it is shipped to the recipient such that no further programming is required, then, unless there is some express teaching in *Lipsit* that configuration data is provided to the device, *Lipsit* cannot teach ***the server providing*** the different configuration data ***to the different mobile devices*** as recited in claim 9. Thus, for at least this reason the combination of *Findikli* and *Lipsit* does not render claim 9 obvious.

Referring now to the portions of *Lipsit* cited by the Examiner, column 4, lines 50-65 disclose that certain data is stored in a database. Specifically, the cited portion of *Lipsit* provides the following.

> In one embodiment of the invention, the database 44a is constructed to contain records 46 made up of multiple data items 48. In a minimally configured system, the stored data items are only the parameters necessary for activation, e.g. the ESN 48a and the MIN 48b, and a flag or bit 48c which indicates whether a specific wireless device is activated or non-activated. Of course, in a more complex system, a record may optionally contain pointers to, or indirect representations of, the above data items or other parameters 48d. Examples of optional parameters may include one or more of the following: additional NAM parameters, security code, user password information, subscriber identification information, data to identify a level of service, particular features, special billing information, or such other data which may be service specific or otherwise useful to the service provider.

Thus, the data stored in the database of *Lipsit* includes the ESN, MIN and NAM parameters, security code, user password information, subscriber identification

information, data to identify a level of service, billing information, etc. Nowhere in the cited, portion, however, is it disclosed that any of this data is ***provided to the mobile device***. Instead, the data is used by the ***activation unit*** to grant access to the service provider's network. Since the device of *Lipsit* is already ***pre-programmed***, there is no need to transmit any data to it, nor is such transmission disclosed.

Moving to column 8, lines 40-63 of *Lipsit,* the following is disclosed.

> Activation Unit reads the MIN from the CLI information and accesses the database using the MIN (Step 304). Since the wireless device supplier 32 has not identified the MIN to the service provider, no activation record is found (Step 306). Using the voice response capability, the Activation Unit 42 prompts the recipient to provide a security code (Step 308). That request is transmitted back to the non-activated wireless device 30 via the MSC 36 (Step 310). Using the non-activated wireless device 30, the recipient inputs the security code and sends it via the MSC 36 (Step 312) to the Activation Unit 42 (Step 314). The Activation Unit 42 then uses the security code to identify the proper activation record and populate it with the MIN (Step 316). The processor 56 then determines that the ESN is still missingfind therefore [SIC], that the set of parameters necessary for activation are not satisfied (Step 318). Using the voice response capability, the Activation Unit 42 prompts the recipient to provide the ESN (Step 320). That request is transmitted back to the non-activated wireless device 30 via the MSC 36 (Step 322). Using the non-activated wireless device 30, the recipient inputs the ESN and sends it via the MSC 36 (Step 324) to the Activation Unit 42 (Step 326). The processor 56 then populates the activation record with the ESN. Since the set of parameters necessary for activation are satisfied, the processor automatically changes the flag to indicate that the wireless device 30 is activated (Step 328). At or about the same time, the Activation Unit 42 sends an indication to the MSC 36 that the wireless device 30 is now registered and activated (Step 330) and signals the recipient that their wireless device 30 is now activated (Step 332).

Accordingly, this portion of *Lipsit* describes the operation of the ***activation unit***, and how the activation unit interfaces with the wireless device so as to enable access to the network. In particular, the activation unit may request that the wireless device provide a security code (which is entered by the user and transmitted back to the

activation device). However, nowhere in the cited portion is it disclosed that the activation unit (or other device) ***provides "configuration data"*** to the mobile device. Again, since the wireless device of *Lipsit* is ***pre-programmed***, there is no reason to send configuration data from the activation unit (or other device) to the wireless device.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, *Lipsit* does not make up for the deficiencies of *Findikli*.

ii. The Data Stored in the Database of Lipsit Does Not Define a User Specified Operational Characteristic of the Mobile Device

Even if the data stored in database 44a of *Lipsit* is interpreted as being communicated to the wireless device, such data does not define a ***user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device*** as claimed. More specifically, *Lipsit* discloses that the data stored in the database 44a is the ESN, MIN, flag bit, NAM parameters, security code, user password information, subscriber identification information, data to identify level of service billing information, etc. With the exception of the user password information, it is clear that the data stored in the database is not ***user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device***, but instead pertains to data used within the service provider's system to grant access to the network.

Regarding the user password information, there is no teaching in *Lipsit* that this information is "user specified". It is possible (and likely since the cited paragraph pertains to activation of a new phone) that the password information is specified by the service provider and then provided to the user at a later time for activation purposes. Moreover, even if the user password information is specified by the user, such

password information does not define an ***operational characteristic*** of the mobile device. Thus, even if combined, the invention of claim 9 does not result.

iii. Using Lipsit's Data in the System of Findikli Does Not Result in the Claimed Invention

In response to the above arguments, the Examiner provides the following comments.[2]

Applicant argues that Lipsit fails to teach the server providing the different configuration data to the different mobile devices. Findikli et al is used to teach the server sending the configuration data to the wireless data. Lipsit is used to teach wherin the configuration data can defines " a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices". .

For at least the reasons provided below, it is respectfully submitted that even in view of the Examiner's additional comments as set forth in the Advisory Action, the resulting combination does not render claim 9 obvious.

Findikli teaches that an IMSI (international mobile station identify) or MIN (mobile station identification number) number is transferred to a subscription module of a mobile phone during on-the-air activation request. The IMSI and MIN are identification numbers used by a ***service provider*** (e.g., a mobile service provider) to determine if the mobile phone has been authorized to access the system.[3] These numbers are typically assigned when the mobile phone is activated.

As discussed above, *Lipsit* is understood to disclose an activation system wherein configuration information is not transferred to the mobile phone. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art wishing to activate a mobile phone on a service provider's network as taught in *Findikli* would not select information used in the system of *Lipsit* for transfer to the phone. More particularly, since *Lipsit* expressly provides that information

[2] See Advisory Action mailed November 28, 2008
[3] See column 5, lines 49-63 and column 6, lines 31-34 of *Findikli*

is not transferred to the phone during activation, there is no basis for including such information in the system of *Findikli*. Moreover, even if the information of *Lipsit* is used in the system of *Findikli*, none of the information disclosed in the cited portion of *Lipsit* is understood to define an ***operational characteristic of the mobile device***. Thus, even if combined, the invention of claim 9 does not result.

Findikli in view of *Lipsit* is not understood to teach or fairly suggest the server providing, via the network, the different configuration data to the different mobile devices, respectively, the configuration data defining a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices as recited in claim 9.

Accordingly, reversal of the rejection of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

b. Claim 33

Claim 33 depends from claim 9 and therefore the above comments with respect to claim 9 are applicable to claim 33. Claim 33 further sets forth that the configuration data determines at least one of applications loaded on the mobile device, configuration of applications on the mobile device, access to different types of data, or functionality of the mobile device. The Examiner's comments in support of the rejection of claim 33 are set forth below.

> p. As per claim 33, Findikli et al in view of Lipsit wherein the configuration data determines at least one of applications loaded on the mobile device, configuration of applications on the mobile device, access to different types of data, or functionality of the mobile device (See col. 4, lines 26-42).

It is not clear if the above cite is to *Findikli* or to *Lipsit*. Accordingly, the corresponding portions of both references are discussed below.

> Column 4, lines 26-42 of *Findikli* provide the following.
>
> In order to have cellular service, the user must initialize a service subscription from a wireless communications service provider. FIG. 4 illustrates the steps of initializing the subscription. The subscription module 50 is created and assigned a unique subscription module identifier and Ki value (block 62). The Ki value is a secret security key value stored at the subscription module and the AUC for authenticating the subscription at the activation and during subsequent registrations. A user establishes a subscription and selects the parameters of the subscription such as calling options, paging routines, etc., generally designated as "subscription data" (block 64) which are stored at the CSC 300 along with the subscription module identifier (block 66). An activation period is established for the subscriber to activate the subscription and may be established for any length of time (block 68).

The above cited portion of *Findikli* discusses the steps for initializing a service subscription. In doing so, a Ki value is stored in the subscription module and used for authenticating the subscription. Also, during the initialization the user may select parameters of the subscription. However, nowhere in the cited portion is there any reference to configuration data provided ***from a server to a mobile device***, wherein the configuration data determines at least one of ***applications loaded on the mobile device, configuration of applications on the mobile device, access to different types of data, or functionality of the mobile device***.

> Moving now to *Lipsit*, column 4, lines 26-42 provide the following
>
> Optionally, the subscription activation system 38 may be connected to a communication system based Voice Response Unit (VRU) 40, the construction and functional operation of which is well known in the art of telephony.
>
> The subscription activation system is made up of two major functional components, an Activation Unit 42 and a Provisioning/Database Management Unit 44.

> The Provisioning/Database Management Unit's 44 function is to receive and transmit information from, and to, the Activation Unit 42, and maintain an indication of whether a wireless device is non-activated or activated in a database 44a.
>
> An example of a system suitable for performing the functions of the Provisioning/Database Management Unit is the Cincinnati Bell Information Services (CBIS) activation system running the Macro Cell and Switch Manager applications.

The above-cited portion of *Lipsit* discusses the components of the subscription activation system. Like *Findikli* above, nowhere in the cited portion is there any reference to configuration data provided ***from a server to a mobile device***, wherein the configuration data determines at least one of ***applications loaded on the mobile device, configuration of applications on the mobile device, access to different types of data, or functionality of the mobile device***.

Accordingly, reversal of the rejection of claim 33 is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 14-16, 18-20, 23-29

a. Claim 14

Claim 14 sets forth a self configuring mobile device that includes, *inter alia*, a discovery module for ***discovering device specific information on a wireless computer network***, and a communication module that ***obtains device specific information from the discovery module to establish a communications link to at least one device***. The mobile device of claim 14 also includes an update module for ***querying at least one device to obtain a configuration update***, and a configuration module for configuring the mobile device, wherein the configuration module implements the configuration update to configure the mobile device to a ***custom configuration that***

defines a user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device. The Examiner's comments in support of the rejection of claim 14 are as follows.[4]

> b. As per claim 14, Findikli et al teaches a self configuring mobile device, comprising: a discovery module for discovering device specific information on a wireless computer network (See col. 4, lines 26-40); a communication module for transmitting data to and receiving data from the wireless computer network, wherein the communications module obtains device specific information from the discovery module to establish a communications link to at least one device (See col. 5, lines 49-67 and col. 6, lines 1-40); an update module operatively coupled to the communications module for querying the at least one device to obtain a configuration update (See col. 6, lines 1-40) ; and a configuration module for configuring the mobile device, wherein the configuration module implements the configuration update to configure the mobile device to a custom configuration (See col. 6, lines 1-55) wherein the mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells (See col. 3, lines 33-35). However, Findikli et al fails to teach wherein the configuration defines a user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device.
>
> Lipsit teaches wherein the configuration defines user specified operational characteristics of the mobile device (See col. 4, lines 50-65 and col. 8, lines 40-63).
>
> It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Lipsit in the claimed invention of Findikli et al in order to provide automatic activation of a wireless device in a subscription activation system (See page 1, lines 57-59).

[4] See page 4, section b of the final Office Action

i. Findikli

a. Findikli is Not Understood to Disclose a Discovery Module

The Examiner cites to column 4, lines 26-40 of *Findikli* as disclosing the claimed discovery module. The cited portion of *Findikli* is reproduced below.

> In order to have cellular service, the user must initialize a service subscription from a wireless communications service provider. FIG. 4 illustrates the steps of initializing the subscription. The subscription module 50 is created and assigned a unique subscription module identifier and Ki value (block 62). The Ki value is a secret security key value stored at the subscription module and the AUC for authenticating the subscription at the activation and during subsequent registrations. A user establishes a subscription and selects the parameters of the subscription such as calling options, paging routines, etc., generally designated as "subscription data" (block 64) which are stored at the CSC 300 along with the subscription module identifier (block 66). An activation period is established for the subscriber to activate the subscription and may be established for any length of time (block 68).

The cited portion of *Findikli* discloses that a service subscription is initialized by assigning a unique subscription module identifier to a subscription module. More particularly, a secret security key Ki is stored in the subscription module and the AUC for authenticating the subscription. The subscription module then is mated to the mobile device (e.g. by an end user), and information stored in the subscription module is transmitted to a wireless communication system to activate the subscription.[5] Nowhere in the cited portion, however, is there any reference to the subscription module (or any other device) that ***discovers device specific information on a wireless computer network*** as set forth in claim 14.

[5] See, e.g., column 2, lines 38-48 of *Findikli*

b. Findikli is Not Understood to Disclose a Communication Module that Obtains Device Specific Information from the Discovery Module

As noted above, claim 14 provides that the communication module obtains device specific information from the discovery module to establish a communications link to at least one device. For example, the discovery module may detect available IP addresses within a communication network, and provide this information to the communications module to enable communication with a server, for example. The Examiner contends that at column 5, lines 49-67 and at column 6, lines 1-40 of *Findikli* disclose a communication module that obtains device specific information from the discovery module to obtain a communication link.

Column 5, lines 49-67 of *Findikli* provide the following.

> One process of on-the-air activation according to the present invention is illustrated in FIG. 6. After the subscription has been initialized (block 60), the activation request is sent by the user inserting or otherwise mating the subscription module 50 with the ME 25 and using the transceiver circuit 22 to signal the MSC (block 130). Prior to a successful activation, the subscription is usually not assigned a Mobile Station Identification Number (MIN) or an International Mobile Station Identity (IMSI). Because at least one of these identifications are normally necessary to access the system, the mobile terminal 10 that is over-the-air activating a subscription generates a temporary MIN, called the Activation MIN (AMIN), that is constructed by using the algorithm known in the art based on the subscription module identifier.
>
> The MSC 100 receives the information (block 140) and identifies an on-the-air activation request either based on the feature code that was dialed by the user, on the AMIN used for system access, or any other signal indicating activation.

The above-cited portion of *Findikli* does disclose that a transceiver circuit 22 establishes a communication link with an MSC. However, nowhere in the cited portion is it disclosed that the transceiver circuit ***obtains device specific information from a***

discovery module of the wireless device to establish a communication link to at least one device. The cited portion is simply silent with regard to how the transceiver module establishes the communication link.

Moving to column 6, lines 1-40 of *Findikli*, there is provided the following.

> The information transmitted to the MSC 100 includes the subscription module identifier and the AMIN. Additionally, the activation period may also be transmitted to the MSC 100. When the MSC 100 notes the request, the MSC 100 notifies an Over-the-Air Function 400 (OTAF) that an activation has been initiated (block 150). The OTAF is the logical node that handles the activation request. The OTAF 400 searches the CSC 300 for the record containing the subscription module identifier and subscription data (block 160). An IMSI and/or MIN number may then be assigned to the subscription and the information saved with the corresponding record in the CSC 300. Alternatively, the IMSI and/or MIN may have been assigned at the initialization of the subscription and saved in the CSC 300 at that time.
>
> The system searches DB.A within the AUC for the subscription module identifier (block 170). If the subscription module identifier is not found, an error message is displayed to the user indicating that the subscription information is incorrect or the activation period has expired (block 180). If the subscription module identifier is found within the DB.A, the subscription module identifier and Ki values are stored within the second database DB.B along with the IMSI/MIN or other pertinent information recovered from the CSC (block 190). The system may flag the subscription as being successfully activated by creating a new record in the DB.B, or the record may already exist in DB.B and the system may simply set an appropriate data flag. The record is then deleted from the DB.A and may be deleted from the other AUCs within the system. The records within the other AUCs may either be deleted concurrently as the subscription is activated, or may not be deleted until the periodic purging by the system. The IMSI/MIN and any other necessary information is transferred to the subscription module where it is saved in memory (block 195). Additionally, when the activation period is stored at the subscription module, it may be transmitted to the authentication center. This provides for a redundant check of the activation period and also provides the activation period in the event that it was incorrectly deleted from the authentication center prior to the activation request.

This portion of *Findikli* discusses the over-the-air activation process. In particular, the cited portion details the interaction of the various components of

the *Findikli* system (e.g., the CSC, AUC, MSC and OTAF) to activate the wireless device. Further, the cited portion provides that the IMSI/MIN is transferred to the subscription module, and that the subscription module may transfer the activation period to the authentication center. However, the cited portion is silent with respect to the ***transceiver obtaining device specific information from a discovery module to establish a communication link to at least one device.***

ii. Lipsit

As noted above, the mobile device according to claim 14 also includes a configuration module for configuring the mobile device, wherein the configuration module implements a ***configuration update*** (the configuration update is obtained via the update module). Further, claim 14 sets forth that the configuration module implements the configuration update to configure the mobile device to a ***custom configuration that defines a user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device***. The Examiner admits that *Findikli* fails to teach configuration data that defines a user specified operational characteristic, but contends *Lipsit* teaches this feature, and it would have been obvious to use this feature in the system of *Findikli* (see page 18, section b, paragraph 2 of this brief).

a. Lipsit is Not Understood to Teach Providing Configuration Data to the Mobile Device

As discussed above in section A(1)(a)(i), the system of *Lipsit* pertains to wireless devices that are ***preprogrammed***, and require ***no further configuration for activation***. If the wireless device of *Lipsit* is preprogrammed such that no additional information is

required by the wireless device, then it is not seen how *Lipsit* can teach ***a mobile device configured to query at least one device to obtain a configuration update, or a mobile device that implements the configuration update to configure the mobile device*** as set forth in claim 14. In particular, the portions of *Lipsit* cited by the Examiner are not understood to disclose that data is provided ***to the mobile device***. Instead, the data is used by the activation unit to grant access to the service provider's network. Since the mobile device of *Lipsit* is already ***pre-programmed***, there is no basis for transferring information disclosed in *Lipsit* to the mobile device.

vi. The Data Stored in the Database Does Not Define a User Specified Operational Characteristic

For the reasons discussed above in section A(1)(a)(ii), even if *Lipsit* is construed to teach *a mobile device configured to query at least one device to obtain the configuration update, or a mobile device that implements a configuration update to configure the mobile device,* the data stored the database 44a of *Lipsit* does not ***define a user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device***. Thus, even if the data of *Lipsit* is used in the system of *Findikli*, the claimed invention does not result.

Accordingly, for at least the above reason, *Lipsit* does not make up for the deficiencies of *Findikli*.

vii. Using Lipsit's Data in the System of Findikli Does Not Result in the Claimed Invention

In response to the above comments in sections A(2)(a)(iv) and A(2)(a)(v), the Examiner provides the following rebuttal.

Applicant argues that Lipsit fails to teach the server providing the different configuration data to the different mobile devices. Findikli et al is used to teach the server sending the configuration data to the wireless data. Lipsit is used to teach wherin the configuration data can defines " a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices". .

As discussed above, *Lipsit* is understood to disclose an activation system wherein configuration information is not transferred to the mobile phone. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art wishing to activate a mobile phone as taught in *Findikli* would not select information used in the system of *Lipsit* for transfer to the phone. More particularly, since *Lipsit* expressly provides that information is not transferred to the phone during activation, there is no basis for including such information in the system of *Findikli*. Moreover, and as noted above, even if the information of *Lipsit* is used in the system of *Findikli*, none of the information disclosed in the cited portion of *Lipsit* is understood to define a ***user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device***. Thus, even if combined, the invention of claim 14 does not result.

Findikli in view of *Lipsit* is not understood to teach or fairly suggest a discovery module for discovering device specific information on a wireless computer network, a communication module that obtains device specific information from the discovery module to establish a communications link to at least one device, an update module operatively coupled to the communications module for querying the at least one device to obtain a configuration update, or a configuration module that implements a configuration update to configure the mobile device to a custom configuration that defines a user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device, as recited in claim 14.

Accordingly, reversal of the rejection of claim 14 is respectfully requested.

b. Claim 28

Claim 28 depends from claim 14 and therefore the above comments with respect to claim 14 are applicable to claim 28. Claim 28 further sets forth that the database includes an identification entry for uniquely identifying each self configuring mobile device in the system, wherein the identification entry is selected from the group consisting of a MAC address, a device serial number, and a CPU identification code. The Examiner's comments in support of the rejection of claim 33 are set forth below.

> n. As per claim 28, Findikli et al in view of Lipsit teaches the clamed invention as described above. Furthermore, Findikli et al teaches wherein the identification entry is a device serial number (See col. 2, lines 18-20).

Column 2, lines 18-32 of *Findikli* are reproduced below.

> A second method is further disclosed that includes establishing a plurality of subscription accounts that each include a serial number and an activation period. A first database is created at a number of authentication centers within the wireless communications system. Each of the first databases includes a record of each subscription account having the corresponding serial number and activation period. The wireless communications system monitors each of the databases and deletes the records having expired activation periods. When an activation request is received for activating one of the subscription accounts, the system determines that the serial number of the request is contained within the first database and the activation period is valid. The record is then flagged as activated and is maintained within the database.

Admittedly, *Findikli* discloses the use of a serial number. However, the cited portion of *Findikli* does not disclose that the serial number is a ***device*** serial number. Instead, the cited portion of *Findikli* appears to suggest that the serial number is tied to the ***subscription account***.

Accordingly, the Examiner has not shown all of the claimed features in the cited art and, therefore, reversal of the rejection of claim 28 is respectfully requested.

B. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 30-32 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Findikli* in view of *Beyda* in further view of *Lipsit.*

1. Claim 1

Claim 1 sets forth a method of transacting business in conjunction with a sale of mobile devices, the method comprising, *inter alia*, upon powering up a first and second mobile device at different end users, automatically connecting the respective mobile devices to at least one server via a network. Once connected to the network, the first and second mobile devices download first configuration data and second configuration data, respectively, from the server, wherein the first and second configuration data define first and second ***end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices***, the first configuration data and the second configuration data being generally different. The Examiner's comments in support of the rejection are set forth below.[6]

[6] See pages 8-10 of the final Office Action

a. As per claim 1, Findikli et al a method of transacting business in conjunction with a sale of mobile devices, the method comprising the steps of: shipping at least a first mobile device to a first end user and at least a second mobile device to a second end user different from the first end user, the first mobile device and the second mobile device having generally a same hardware and software configuration during shipping; maintaining on at least one server coupled to a network configuration data for a plurality of mobile devices (See col. 2, lines 1-17); downloading first configuration data and second configuration data, respectively, from the at least one server, said first and second configuration data defining first and second end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices, respectively the first configuration data and the second configuration data being generally different ; and automatically configuring themselves based on the first configuration data and the second configuration data (See col. 6, lines 1-40), wherein the mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells (See col. 3, lines 33-35). Furthermore,

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Beyda in the claimed invention of Findikli et al in order to determine whether the telephone is present in the activation database or the pre-activation database (See col. 4, lines 50-54). However, Findikli et al in view of Beyda fails to teach wherein first and second configuration data defining first and second end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices, respectively.
Findikli et al inherently teaches wherein upon receipt of the first mobile device and the second mobile device by the first end user and the second end user, respectively, powering up the first mobile device and the second mobile device; and upon being powered up, the first mobile device and the second mobile device each automatically connecting to the at least one server via the network and wherein first and second configuration data defining first and second end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices, respectively.

Beyda teaches a system and method for automatic mobile device activation. Furthermore, Beyda teaches wherein the user switches the cellular telephone on, the local switch detects the power on and also determines that the telephone is preactivated (See col. 3, lines 43-45).

Lipsit teaches wherein first and second configuration data defining first and second end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices, respectively (See col. 4, lines 50-65, col. 8, lines 40-63).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Lipsit in the claimed invention of Findikli et al in order to provide automatic activation of a wireless device in a subscription activation system (See page 1, lines 57-59)

a. Findikli

The Examiner relies on *Findikli* for disclosing that end user specific operational characteristics of the mobile device are downloaded to the mobile device (see first paragraph of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 above).[7] Appellants respectfully disagree with the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

i. Findikli is Not Understood to Teach Downloading End User Specific Operational Characteristics of the Mobile Device

The Examiner cites to column 6, lines 1-40 in support of the rejection of claim 1. The cited portion of *Findikli* is reproduced below.

> The information transmitted to the MSC 100 includes the subscription module identifier and the AMIN. Additionally, the activation period may also be transmitted to the MSC 100. When the MSC 100 notes the request, the MSC 100 notifies an Over-the-Air Function 400 (OTAF) that an activation has been initiated (block 150). The OTAF is the logical node that handles the activation request. The OTAF 400 searches the CSC 300 for the record containing the subscription module identifier and subscription data (block 160). An IMSI and/or MIN number may then be assigned to the subscription and the information saved with the corresponding record in the CSC 300. Alternatively, the IMSI and/or MIN

[7] This appears to contradict the Examiner's statements made in the rejection of claims 9 and 14 – see Examiner's rejection on page 10, second paragraph of this brief under section "a", and page, 18 of this brief, last sentence of the first paragraph in section "b".

may have been assigned at the initialization of the subscription and saved in the CSC 300 at that time.

The system searches DB.A within the AUC for the subscription module identifier (block 170). If the subscription module identifier is not found, an error message is displayed to the user indicating that the subscription information is incorrect or the activation period has expired (block 180). If the subscription module identifier is found within the DB.A, the subscription module identifier and Ki values are stored within the second database DB.B along with the IMSI/MIN or other pertinent information recovered from the CSC (block 190). The system may flag the subscription as being successfully activated by creating a new record in the DB.B, or the record may already exist in DB.B and the system may simply set an appropriate data flag. The record is then deleted from the DB.A and may be deleted from the other AUCs within the system. The records within the other AUCs may either be deleted concurrently as the subscription is activated, or may not be deleted until the periodic purging by the system. The IMSI/MIN and any other necessary information is transferred to the subscription module where it is saved in memory (block 195). Additionally, when the activation period is stored at the subscription module, it may be transmitted to the authentication center. This provides for a redundant check of the activation period and also provides the activation period in the event that it was incorrectly deleted from the authentication center prior to the activation request.

The cited portion of *Findikli* discusses the over-the-air activation process. In particular, and as previously noted, the cited portion details the interaction of the various components of the *Findikli* system (e.g., the CSC, AUC, MSC and OTAF). However, nowhere in the cited portion is there found any reference to a mobile device downloading first and second configuration data that define first and second ***end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices***. Accordingly, the Examiner's reliance on *Findikli* for teaching these features is misguided.

a. Lipsit

The Examiner also relies on *Lipsit* for disclosing that end user specific operational characteristics of the respective mobile devices are downloaded to each mobile device.

i. Lipsit is Not Understood to Teach Providing Configuration Data to the Mobile Device

As discussed above in section A(1)(a)(i), the system of *Lipsit* pertains to wireless devices that are ***preprogrammed***, and require ***no further configuration for activation***. If the wireless device of *Lipsit* is preprogrammed such that no additional information is by the wireless device, then it is not seen how *Lipsit* can teach the ***mobile device downloading configuration data from a server*** as set forth in claim 1. Again, since the wireless device of *Lipsit* is ***pre-programmed***, there is no reason to download configuration data from the activation unit (or other device) to the wireless device.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, *Lipsit* does not make up for the deficiencies of *Findikli*.

ii. The Data Stored in the Database of Lipsit is Not Understood to Define End User Specific Operational Characteristics of the Mobile Device

Claim 1 sets forth that the first and second configuration data define first and second ***end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices***. For the reasons set forth in section A(1)(a)(ii) above, even if *Lipsit* is construed to teach the mobile device downloading configuration data from a server, the data stored the database 44a of *Lipsit* does not ***define end user specific operational***

***characteristics* of the mobile device**. Accordingly, *Lipsit* is not understood to make up for the deficiencies of *Findikli.*

Beyda pertains to a system wherein a user is provided with a personal identification number upon purchase of a cell phone. The cell phone then ships and the service provider activates the phone in a pre-activation mode. Upon receiving the phone, the user enters his personal identification number to and the activation process is completed. *Beyda* is cited for a local switch detecting when the phone has been powered on. *Beyda*, however, has not been found to make up for the above deficiencies of *Findikli* and *Lipsit*.

iii. Using Lipsit's Data in the System of Findikli Does Not Result in the Claimed Invention

In response to the above comments in sections B(1)(b)(i) and B(1)(b)(ii), the Examiner provides the following rebuttal.

> Applicant argues that Lipsit fails to teach the server providing the different configuration data to the different mobile devices. Findikli et al is used to teach the server sending the configuration data to the wireless data. Lipsit is used to teach wherin the configuration data can defines " a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices". .

For the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 9, even in view of the Examiner's additional comments as set forth in the Advisory Action, the resulting combination does not render claim 1 obvious.

Findikli teaches that an IMSI (international mobile station identify) or MIN (mobile station identification number) number is transferred to a subscription module of a mobile phone during on-the-air activation request. The IMSI and MIN are identification numbers used by a service provider (e.g., a mobile service provider) to determine if the

mobile phone has been authorized to access the system.[8] These numbers are typically assigned when the mobile phone is activated.

As discussed above, *Lipsit* is understood to disclose an activation system wherein configuration information is not transferred to the mobile phone. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art wishing to activate a mobile phone as taught in *Findikli* would not select information used in the system of *Lipsit* for transfer to the phone. More particularly, since *Lipsit* expressly provides that information is not transferred to the phone during activation, there is no basis for including such information in the system of *Findikli*.

Findikli, *Lipsit* and *Beyda* are not understood to teach or fairly suggest first and second mobile devices downloading first configuration data and second configuration data, respectively, from the at least one server, wherein the first and second configuration data define first and second end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, reversal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

C. Rejection of Claims 4-6 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Findikli* in view of *Beyda*, *Lipsit* and *Rosenberg*. Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1, which, as discussed above, is patentably distinguishable over *Findikli*, *Beyda*, and *Lipsit*. *Rosenberg* pertains to a system for automatically activating wireless devices. The system of *Rosenberg*, however, has not been found to make up for the deficiencies of

[8] See column 5, lines 49-63 and column 6, lines 31-34 of *Findikli*

Findikli, Beyda and *Lipsit* and, thus, claim 1, and claims dependent therefrom, are also patentably distinguishable over *Findikli* in view of *Beyda*, *Lipsit* and *Rosenberg.*

Accordingly, reversal of the rejection of claims 4-6 is respectfully requested.

D. Rejection of Claims 11-13 and 21-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 11-13 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Findikli* in view of *Beyda*, *Lipsit* and *Rosenberg*. Claims 11-13 and 21-22 depend from claim 9, which, as discussed above, is patentably distinguishable over *Findikli* and *Lipsit*. The addition of *Beyda* and *Rosenberg* has not been found to make up for the deficiencies of *Findikli* and *Lipsit* and, thus claim 9, and claims dependent thereform, are patentably distinguishable over *Findikli* in view of *Beyda*, *Lipsit* and *Rosenberg.* Accordingly, reversal of the rejection of claims 11-13 and 21-22 is respectfully requested.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the applied art and that the rejections advanced by the Examiner should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, L.L.P.

By : /Kenneth W. Fafrak/
Kenneth W. Fafrak
Reg. No. 50,689

1621 Euclid Avenue, 19th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
216-621-1113

Claims Appendix

1. A method of transacting business in conjunction with a sale of mobile devices, the method comprising the steps of:

shipping at least a first mobile device to a first end user and at least a second mobile device to a second end user different from the first end user, the first mobile device and the second mobile device having generally a same hardware and software configuration during shipping ;

maintaining on at least one server coupled to a network configuration data for a plurality of mobile devices;

upon receipt of the first mobile device and the second mobile device by the first end user and the second end user, respectively, powering up the first mobile device and the second mobile device; and

upon being powered up, the first mobile device and the second mobile device each

a) automatically connecting to the at least one server via the network;

b) downloading first configuration data and second configuration data, respectively, from the at least one server, said first and second configuration data defining first and second end user specific operational characteristics of the first and second mobile devices, respectively, the first configuration data and the second configuration data being generally different; and

c) automatically configuring themselves based on the first configuration data and the second configuration data, wherein each mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining configuration data for a plurality of mobile devices includes the steps of:

storing in memory on the server an identification code for uniquely identifying each mobile device; wherein the configuration data corresponds to the identification code.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of automatically connecting to the at least one server includes the steps of:

transmitting to the server an identification code of the respective mobile device; and

retrieving by the server configuration data based on the transmitted identification code.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising a gateway for establishing remote communications between each mobile device and the server.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the gateway is an internet connection.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the gateway is an intranet connection.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

configuring the mobile device manually in the event of a failure of the automatic configuration.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of configuring the mobile device manually further comprises the steps of:

creating encrypted data, wherein the encrypted data includes an identifier, a time/date window, and configuration data;

entering the encrypted data into the mobile device;

verifying that the identification code and the time/date window relative to the particular mobile device; and

using the configuration data to configure the mobile device, wherein the configuration is conditioned upon the verification of the identifier and the time/date window.

9. A method for maintaining configuration data on a server coupled to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in memory on the server different configuration data for a plurality of different mobile devices, wherein each mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells;

the server receiving, via the network, requests for the different configuration data from the different mobile devices, respectively; and

the server providing, via the network, the different configuration data to the different mobile devices, respectively, said configuration data defining a user specified operational characteristic of each of the plurality of mobile devices.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of storing in memory on the server different configuration data for a plurality of mobile devices includes storing in memory an identification code for uniquely identifying each mobile device, and each configuration data corresponds to a respective identification code.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising a gateway for establishing remote communications between each mobile device and the server.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the gateway is an internet connection.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the gateway is an intranet connection.

14. A self configuring mobile device, comprising:

a discovery module for discovering device specific information on a wireless computer network;

a communication module for transmitting data to and receiving data from the wireless computer network, wherein the communications module obtains device specific information from the discovery module to establish a communications link to at least one device;

an update module operatively coupled to the communications module for querying the at least one device to obtain a configuration update; and

a configuration module for configuring the mobile device, wherein the configuration module implements the configuration update to configure the mobile device to a custom configuration that defines a user specified operational characteristic of the mobile device, wherein the mobile device is operable to maintain a communication link as the mobile device roams between communication cells.

15. The self configuring mobile device of claim 14, further comprising a user input module for entering data corresponding to the configuration of the mobile device .

16. The self configuring mobile device of claim 15, wherein the user input module is a keypad.

17. The self configuring mobile device of claim 15, wherein the user input module is a bar code reader.

18. The self configuring mobile device of claim 14, wherein the self configuring mobile device initially is configured in a generic state.

19. A wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one system backbone;

at least one host computer coupled to the system backbone;

a wireless remote station coupled to the at least one system backbone; and

the self configuring mobile device of claim 14, wherein the self configuring mobile device and the at least one host computer are operatively configured to wirelessly communicate configuration information therebetween, and the self configuring mobile device changes a first configuration setting to a second configuration based on a plurality of configuration data received from the at least one host computer, said second configuration setting being specific to a particular environment.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising:

a local station coupled to the at least one system backbone and to at least one remote communication link, wherein the wireless remote station is coupled to the at least one system backbone through the remote communication link and the local station.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one remote link is an internet connection.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one remote link is an intranet connection.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein the local station and the wireless remote station are routers.

24. The system of claim 19, wherein the environment is a computer network.

25. The system of claim 19, wherein the environment is a computer management system for managing business operations.

26. The system of claim 19, wherein the at least one host computer includes a memory and a database stored in the memory.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the database comprises:

an identification entry for uniquely identifying each self configuring mobile device in the system; and

a configuration entry for specifying the configuration of the self configuring mobile device, wherein the configuration entry corresponds to the identification entry.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the identification entry is selected from the group consisting of a Media Access Control (MAC) address, a device serial number, and a Central Processing Unit (CPU) identification code.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein the database further comprises at least one of an operating software entry, a diagnostic data entry, a registration data entry and a device capabilities entry.

30. The method of claim 1, wherein the first mobile device and the second mobile device include a number of predefined features, and wherein automatically configuring the respective mobile devices includes configuring the first mobile device to enable access to a first number of features of the predefined number of features, and configuring the second mobile device to enable access to a second number of features of the predefined number of features, wherein the first number is different from the second number.

31. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically configuring the mobile devices includes enabling or disabling features of the mobile devices based on an intended or actual user of the respective mobile devices.

32. The method according to claim 31, wherein enabling or disabling features of the mobile devices based on the intended or actual user includes enabling or disabling access to at least one of stock on hand, wholesale prices, retail prices, quantity on hand, or delivery dates of stock.

33. The method according to claim 9, wherein the configuration data determines at least one of applications loaded on the mobile device, configuration of applications on the mobile device, access to different types of data, or functionality of the mobile device.

Evidence Appendix

None.

Related Proceedings Appendix

None.